

5000 West

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Celebrate compassion Celebrate our nurses

This is National Nurses Week. It is your opportunity to thank nurses for their continuing contributions as integral members of the healthcare team. In preparation for the week, nursing staff, under the leadership of nurse consultant Mary Brunn, have selected four staff members to be recognized to receive the prestigious honor: The 2004 Secretary's Award for Excellence in Nursing.

The annual program calls for nominations in December to identify excellence in providing nursing care by an advanced practice nurse (nurse manager, instructor, etc.), a registered nurse in a staff nurse role, a licensed practical nurse and a nursing assistant. Anyone can nominate. Several months later, a group of their peers make the selection based on performance criteria and not knowing the names of the nominated individuals.

Today, before a standing-room-only crowd, Judy Murphy, associate director/patient and nursing services, presented the awards.



Mary E. Moat, RN, NP, and Dennis W. Richards

"She has been wonderful to me. She always explains things. Thank you, Mary." – Mr. Richards

"I enjoy the veteran population. There is a real camaraderie. They continue to take care of each other just like they did in the military.

It is the feeling of trying to help someone through what is probably one of the most special parts of their life. We only get one opportunity to die, and we try to help the patients to die as they want to die.

Everyone has different goals, and that's really our challenge. It is very gratifying; very emotionally charged. It is the feeling of doing something extremely worthwhile. It is a calling."

Mary E Moat, RN, NP

Award for Excellence in Nursing
Advanced Practice Category
Nurse practitioner
Certified as hospice/palliative care nurse
8A-South (Palliative Care)
VA nurse for 9 years

"The veterans are a unique group of people... they have so much to give. I look forward to coming to work everyday. People are willing to listen."

Mary A. Carlson, RN

Award for Excellence in Nursing
Staff Nurse Category
6C (Medicine, Hematology/Oncology)
Oncology certified nurse
VA nurse for 18 years



Floyd J. Pruitt and Mary A. Carlson, RN

"Thank you for the caring." – Mr. Pruitt



Al Grzeskowiak and Ann M. Snieg, LPN

"Thank you, Ann, for your dedication." – Mr. Grzeskowiak

"It (VA) is a great place to work. When you walk down the hall people make eye contact. People smile and look at you. It's family. I love coming in every day. I love the people I work with. I choose every moment to be here – 100%."

Ann M. Snieg, LPN

Award for Excellence in Nursing
Licensed Practical Nurse Category
7C-South (Medical/Surgical)
VA nurse for 4 years

"I like taking care of my patients. I work on palliative care where everybody's goal is to make the patient comfortable and help the family through these hard times."

Tammy L. Leisher, CNA

Award for Excellence in Nursing
Health Technician Category
8A-South (Palliative Care)
VA service for 21 years



Sig Hansen and Tammy Leisher, CNA

"Tammy, thank you for always being so helpful and considerate." – Mr. Hansen



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The community relations office publishes *5000 West* bi-weekly as a channel of communication for employees, volunteers, patients and friends. *5000 West* is committed to enhancing the image of the Medical Center and its employees and volunteers through information, recognition and entertainment.

Articles of interest are welcome. The editor reserves the right to use and edit contributed stories. Submission deadline is two days prior to publication. Your comments are encouraged and should be directed to editor (002) 5000 West, VA Medical Center, Milwaukee, WI 53295; telephone (414) 382-5363 or (888) 469-6614, extension 45363 or e-mail john.zewiske@med.va.gov

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